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LB 75

are going to have less competition and the price obviously is going to go up. We're talking about interfering with the whole free market enterprise here with a requirement that these people offer ethanol at the lowest grade of no lead. And folks, it's not good legislation. And as I said, I'm waiting for the next phone call. They seem to be getting a little more interesting each time we get one, and there are some good suggestions out there from the public. And if we get through this list of amendments, day after tomorrow or next week, whenever it is, I think there will be one toward the bottom requiring farmers to use ethanol and biodiesel. I don't see anything wrong with that, to be honest with you. I use ethanol now. I don't use biodiesel because I don't know what the availability of it is but the buses are running it here in Lincoln on it, according to Senator Price's constituent, and I think they are. I do believe you see signs like that so...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: ...it must be working. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, on the Chambers amendment to the Connealy amendment to LB 75.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I...it was stated earlier that ethanol production plays no major role in Nebraska right now, but I'd just like to tell you that right now Nebraska ethanol facilities have the capacity of about 350 million gallons of ethanol per year. To make this ethanol, they use about 200 million bushels of corn per year. Now at the current level, that's about 5 to 10 cents a bushel more for the corn that the farmer receives. Now the price of corn this last year was terribly low, as most of you know. Can you imagine what it would have been like if we would have taken another 5 to 10 cents per bushel off of that price. You know, right now I think we have the opportunity to do something for our farmers and for rural Nebraska and the state of Nebraska, and I think we need to do it. We can drastically, I think, help the corn price by passing some of these ethanol bills. Thank you.